National Catholic Theater Conference

PRODUCTION CALENDAR

Vol. 1 September 1941 No. 1

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With this issue The National Catholic Theatre Conference returns to the publication field in which it was represented, from 1937 to 1940, by the quarterly, Catholic Theatre.

The Production Calendar, to be published monthly, will give a working picture of contemporary Catholic theatre as it is now functioning from coast to coast.

For Statement of Policy and Services, see the special bulletin entitled The National Catholic Theatre Conference Presents a National Theatre for America, published by the Service Bureau, 316 West 57th Street, New York.

316 West 57 Street, New York Established 1937

HIGHLIGHTS OF '40 - '41

Baltimore - "Your Town," original musical by students of Loyola University.

Boston - "Song Out of Sorrow," new play on Francis Thompson by Felix Doherty, production by Blackfriars. Summer School of theatre at Boston College, under Father Bonn - training actors and directors primarily for the non-professional theatre.

Chicago - "Who Ride on White Horses," new Edmund Campion play from the play - writing seminar at Fordham (Longmans Green "Theatre for Tomorrow") at Loyola Community Theatre.

Detroit - Catholic Theatre Guild in its first year under Paul Lilly nets a $1,600 profit.

New York - "Oedipus Tyrannus" in Greek at Fordham; Twelve new one acts at Fordham Playshop; establishment of Blackfriars Experimental Theatre for testing new plays.

Pittsburgh - "Traitor's Gate" by Morna Stuart, premiere of new play on St. Thomas More, at the Catholic Theatre Guild of Pittsburgh.

Scranton - "Murder in the Cathedral," outdoor production by Sister Camillus at Marywood College.

San Francisco - "Brother Petroc's Return," successful tour by Catholic Theatre Guild under direction of GenevieveSullivan

Toledo - Fireside Players, new group organized by the Otto Wenzlers for the impromptu staging of plays at home in a fashion similar to the "Arena" method used by Professor Glenn Hughes at the University of Seattle.

Washington - "God's Stage," Chronicle of the divinity in drama arranged by Walter Kerr.

PLIGHT OF REFUGEES

As the War turned out the lights in one after another of Europe's theatres, many distinguished authors, actors, designers and directors began a sad westward migration. Today many of these clever craftsmen find themselves in our cities without any work.

Here is an opportunity for the Catholic theatre in America to win a rare reward for neighbourliness. Consider how your parish, college, community may benefit by the experience of well-trained Catholic artists. Hold out your hand to an exile of the faith.

NOTES FROM BROADWAY

Emmet Lavery, Conference Chairman, has been called to Hollywood on an assignment which will keep him in California until spring.

Jo Mielziner, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, set the stage for "The Wookey" success, in which HoraceMcNally a former Fordham player, appears.

Eddie Dowling is preparing to appear in a new play by O'Casey, "The Purple Dust."

The Theatre Guild announces a season of revivals, directed by Eva Le Gallienne, opening with"Ah, Wilderness" and including "R. U. R.," "The Devil's Disciple" with Spencer Tracy.

Albert McCleery, director of drama at Fordham, is now working in Hollywood studios, but plans to direct at Fordham when possible.

Emmet Lavery has written the preface for Covelle Newcomb's life of Newman for boys, which will be published by Longmans Green under the title "The Red Hat."

Father Gilbert Hartke, O.P., head of the Graduate Department in Drama at Catholic University, has been granted a fellowship for study this year at Northwestern University. He will retain contact with his department at Washington.

Dorothy Sayer's "The Zeal of Thy House" is still unproduced, but Fordham has been making inquiries about it.

Fordham will open its new theatre in Collins Hall in the fall, possibly with a repeat performance of the Oedipus in Greek.

THE PILGRIM PLAYERS

From England comes news of the Pilgrim Players, a professional company under Ruth Spalding, which is keeping the theatre alive in a striking manner. Producing plays in air raid shelters, cathedrals, living rooms - wherever in Canterbury or Oxford that people gather, they play for very little and have never yet been able to pay members more than three pounds for work that may include twelve or fourteen performances. Prominent in the repertory are Bridie's "Tobias and the Angel" and Gheon's "The Way of the Cross."

REPORT ON JUNE CONVENTION

A casual visitor to the Fordham Convention of the National Catholic Theatre Conference would have been overwhelmed with the abundance of sound principles and excellent ideas and the forcefulness of their presentation. Some speakers opened new channels in artistry, some placed new tools in the hands of directors and some, imbued with the magnetism of an ideal aim, brought fresh fervor to old ambitions.

A striking note of the Convention was the challenge given by Richard Dana Skinner to seek the eternal values not only within a Catholic frame but in everyday life, in order to disseminate sound philosophy among a wider audience.

The second day of the Convention was devoted to a business meeting, which included the election of the following officers:

Emmet Lavery	Chairman
Jo Mielziner	Vice-Chairman
Helen Purcell	Secretary-Treasurer
Sister Camillus	Executive Committee
Mrs. Christopher Wyatt	" "
Rev. John L. Bonn, S. J.	" "
Rev. Urban Nagle, O. P.	" "
Rev. Karl G. Schroeder	" "
Richard Dana Skinner	" "

Mr. Skinner regretfully resigned, and Mr. Walter Kerr was appointed in his place. Miss Florence McBride has been appointed Assistant-Treasurer.

NEW REGIONAL CHAIRMEN

Best guide to regional action is the whirlwind program of Charles Costello, chairman for Chicago and the Northwest, who convened a preliminary regional meeting at Loyola Community Theatre in Chicago on August 29 - with 24 delegates present. Follow-up to this will be a big regional meeting in Dubuque on January 30-31, with Clarke and Loras Colleges as the hosts.

Regional Chairmen, who for the ensuing two years will encourage round table meetings of their groups and boost national membership are:

Charles Costello - -	Chicago-Northwest
Paul Lilly	Detroit
Fred Karem	Louisville
Mary E. Clancy	Pittsburgh
Otto Wenzler	Toledo

SALUTE TO DETROIT

Grateful acknowledgment is due the Catholic Theatre Guild of Detroit and its vigorous director, Paul Lilly. At the business meeting of the June Convention, that Guild volunteered to write off the previous deficit of the Conference. Now they are also dedicating their second production, "Campion," to the ideal of Catholic Theatre as represented by the aims of the National Catholic Theatre Conference.

In two seasons the Detroit Guild has earned a responsive public and demonstrated that good theatre can bring good dividends. Representative of the Guild's vitality is its decision to experiment this season with "Thunder Rock" and "Flight to the West."

RICHMOND INVITATION

The Catholic Theatre Guild of Richmond Virginia, presenting an invitation to the Conference to hold its 1943 Convention in Richmond, brought special greetings from the Bishop of Richmond and the Governor of Virginia.

As an added incentive to accept, we are told that the first theatre in America, erected at Williamsburg in 1716, is to be reconstructed and would be formally opened in conjunction with a Richmond convention of the Conference.

DRAMA IN THE CAMPS

To provide a "home away from home," the National Catholic Community Service (USO) is now operating an extensive program to maintain the morale of Catholic soldiers in the training camps. Emmet Lavery, Chairman of the National Catholic Theatre Conference, is serving as consultant in drama to the program.

Catholic theatres throughout the country are invited, and urged, to make the N.C.C.S. program in drama their program. Contact your nearest N.C.C.S.-USO center. Tour your plays into these centers if possible; invite the men to your theatre. Use the theatre as an uplifting power to develop men. This is your opportunity not only to be of service to the men, but also to build future audiences for Catholic Theatre when these soldiers return to civilian life.

NOTES FROM HEADQUARTERS

In the New York office, which Father Nagle and Father Carey so generously placed at the disposal of the Conference, we are trying hard to carry on the work former secretaries performed so faithfully in the past.

You can help us in three ways: 1) Tell us about your group and its plans each month; 2) Send us an acting copy of your plays, when production is over, for our service bureau library; 3) Get new members for the Conference.

A cordial invitation is extended to all members to visit headquarters when they come to New York. Recent welcome visitors have been: Father O'Kane of Richmond; John Horgan of Pittsburgh Catholic Theatre Guild; Father Givney, Troy Blackfriars, and Father Hinds, Albany Blackfriars.

ROYALTY REDUCTIONS

For Conference Group Members the following reductions are available over and above any reduction you may personally arrange with the publisher because of special circumstances:

Title	Author	Publisher	List	Conference Rate
Enchanted Cottage	Pinero	Walter H. Baker	$25	$17.50
Little Plays of St. Francis	Housman	"	$5 ea.	$5 for 1 play; more than three in one evening: $15
Days Without End	O'Neill	Dramatists Play Service	$35	$30
Father Malachy's Miracle	Doherty	"	$35	$25
Passenger to Bali	St. Joseph	"	$25	$20
Thunder Rock	Ardrey	"	$25	$20
The Wolves	Rolland	"	$15	$10
Yellow Jack	Howard	"	$35	$25
Shadow and Substance	Carroll	"	$35	$25
Holy Night	Sierra	E.P.Dutton & Co.	$25	$20
Brother Orchid	Brady	Samuel French	$25	$20
Clarence	Tarkington	"	$25	$20
Far-Off Hills	Robinson	"	$50	$45
Hotel Universe	Barry	"	$50	$45
House Beautiful, The	Pollock	"	$25	$20
Man's House, A	Drinkwater	"	$25	$20
Noah	Obey	"	$25	$20
Campion	Breen & Schmibe	Longmans Green	$25	Theatre for Tomorrow -
Damien	Lavery & Murphy		$25	3 plays given in sequence
Savonarola	Nagle		$15	$50

Groups wishing to avail themselves of royalty reductions must be certified by National Catholic Theatre Conference headquarters at least one month in advance of production. Write to us, telling us the play you wish to use and the date of performance, and we will send certification to the publisher. The reduced royalty fee must be paid to the publisher five days in advance of production; if it is not, the maximum fee is payable.

PRODUCTION SCHEDULES - Here is the October cross country line-up as the season begins:

Chicago	Loyola Community Theatre	"Shadow and Substance"
Detroit	Catholic Theatre Guild	"A Slight Case of Murder"
New York	Blackfriars	Sean Vincent's epic drama "Up the Rebels"
Pittsburgh	Catholic Theatre Guild	"Little Plays of St. Francis" (Housman)
Richmond	Catholic Theatre Guild	"Little Women"; also bi-weekly productions at three neighboring Army camps
San Francisco	Catholic Theatre Guild	"Pie in the Sky," new labor play by Emmet Lavery
Troy	Blackfriars	George Kelly's satire, "The Torch Bearers"
Washington	Catholic University	"The Contrast," first of a season Americana
Washington	Blackfriars	"Ladies in Retirement"